

DESIGN Q&A

GUILLAUME ALAN

The Parisian designer prefers restraint to ostentation

What was your most recent find? On one of our recent projects in Paris, we found an old mosaic floor under the existing one. It was very beautiful with grey, bronze and old gold colours, so we kept it. It brings an incredible touch of the past to the home.

Most extravagant thing you've bought for your home? An impressive old olive tree I saw in Tuscany. I had it shipped to me so that I could have a part of Italy at home.

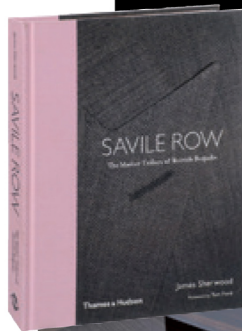
House warming present? Beautiful art books. At the moment my favourite is Raphael (Phaidon).

Unsung design hero? I admire Jean-Michel Frank's work. He created the tradition of 'décorateurs ensembliers' by approaching spaces as a whole.

What should never see the light of day? Ostentation. I hate it. I'm all about restraint in architecture and opulence in spirit.



Guillaume Alan



Where do you find inspiration? Walking my Alaskan Malamute dog in Hyde Park,

because it's peaceful and beautiful in any season.

What's the last piece of art you bought?

A 15th-century medieval stone head. Its shape is fascinating and the colour of the stone is magnificent, all in beige and light grey shades.

What would you never throw away?

Photographs. They immortalise a moment, a feeling, an atmosphere, a sensation and they reawaken the senses.

Which designers do you have your eye on? Tadao Ando, Kengo Kuma and John Pawson.

What do you collect? Books. I love them, particularly Taschen's beautiful art books. A recent addition was Savile Row, with a foreword by Tom Ford.

What's beside your bed? My dog.

What are you currently working on? I'm particularly excited about two house projects that include the outside architecture, a new South of France hotel and a restaurant in Paris.

guillaume-alan.com



Alan's aesthetic in a recent Hyde Park townhouse project

LITTLE BLACK BOOK

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